



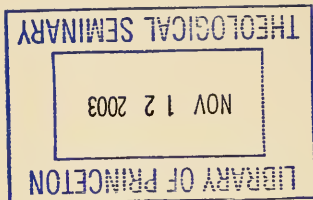
In

Memoriam

Thomas H. Bracken, D. D.

Lebanon, Ky.

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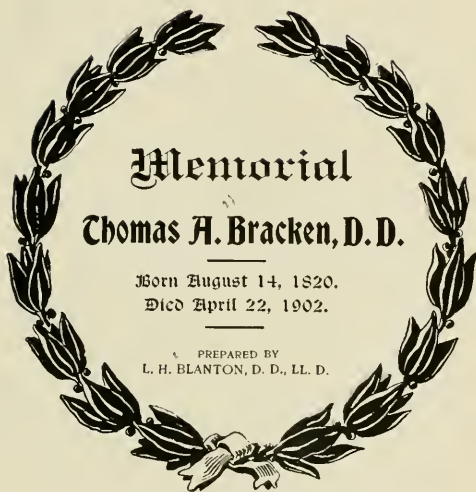
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Memorial: Thomas A. Bracken
D.D.



Thomas A. Becken, D. D.

Second Edition.



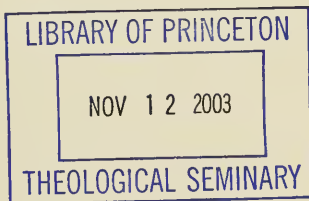
Memorial

Thomas A. Bracken, D. D.

Born August 14, 1820.

Died April 22, 1902.

PREPARED BY
L. H. BLANTON, D. D., LL. D.



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Preface

The words of Bonar suit well just here, and so I quote them:

"It is not a eulogy I wish to write, but a record. I should like to show the man, not to execute a piece of sculpture."

They express the design of Mrs. Bracken in desiring the preparation of this memorial, and of others who have responded to her request to make practical her strong and loving purpose.

In doing this, besides the noble tribute of Dr. Blanton to the merit and memory of his deceased friend, there have been incorporated the testimony of others who knew well and long this great and good man—selected from printed articles and private letters which were sent to Mrs. Bracken, to be her silent comforters as the great sorrow was in her soul.

Were all these tender and discriminating testimonies gathered together and printed, a portly volume would take the place of a simple memorial, which the beloved widow desires prepared for herself, her husband's family and a few friends, and not for general circulation.

The Church may use the materials that are in hand concerning that noble preacher and presbyter as a tribute to God's grace, and as an inspiration to members of her communion and with thankfulness that this dauntless soul "held his body strengthened" so many years for splendid service.

But the wife would make use of them only in simple devotion and as solace to her own sad heart. She committed the preparation of the Memorial to the Rev. Dr. L. H. Blanton, the intimate friend of her husband, who was assisted in the work by the Rev. Dr. Wm. Irvine, the Rev. Dr. F. R. Beattie and others.

May I not take these words from the prophecy of Malachi and place them on the page dedicated to my friend and counsellor? "My covenant was with him of life and peace: and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared Me, and was afraid before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with Me in peace and equity and did turn many away from iniquity."

J. G. HUNTER.

HARRODSBURG, KY., December, 1902.

Dr. Thomas A. Bracken.



MEMORIALS are meant to benefit the living and not the dead. They serve to remind us of the nobility of sacrifice, the immortality of service. While the consciousness of duty done, out of love to Christ, should be a sufficient motive, yet to be enshrined in the memory of the just is no mean incentive. The Master thought it not unbecoming to embalm in a perpetual memorial, to be spoken of, the loving ministry of the Maid of Bethany. For this reason we deem it to be both right and religious to give honor to whom honor is due, and to pay reverence to any life that found its inspiration in the love of Christ.

Therefore, with sad hearts and solemn thoughts, we place this memorial of love and veneration upon the name of our beloved brother, Thomas A. Bracken, D. D.

“Truly a prince and a great man is fallen this day in Israel.”

Many of us will miss him, for his seat is empty and his voice is silent. For more than a quarter of a

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century his familiar face has been seen at our meetings, and his wise and weighty counsels were accepted as the solution of difficult questions.

While in theory we recognize the "parity of the ministry," yet in fact we do make distinctions and suffer differences, even "as one star differs from another in glory." These preferences, however, do not arise from a man's age or his ancestry, but from his activities and attainments in the service of the Master. In the Synod of Kentucky names and titles count for little apart from genuine merit. In the truest sense, "Honor and shame from no condition rise; act well your part, there all the honor lies." It was no mean compliment, therefore, to the character of Dr. Bracken that he was, not by assumption but by concession, an acknowledged leader in all the affairs pertaining to the Kingdom of Christ in this Synod. His name and presence gave confidence and courage to all with whom he was allied, and lent strength and support to any cause he espoused. So pre-eminently did he combine wisdom with understanding that men came to trust his discernment and discretion in all things. He was, withal, so humble, so honest, so honorable, that the interests of the Church were safe in his hands, and no one ever feared that truth and righteousness would suffer.

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Dr. Bracken was not deemed a genius, but he had what was far better and more essential to success—patience, perseverance, prudence and principle. He had in a large measure that rarest of gifts, “common sense.” By this he was able to divest many questions of that which was extraneous and unessential. His mind, though not brilliant, was beautifully poised and under ready command, for it had been disciplined and drilled to come and go at the summons of a will that was well nigh imperious in its determination to know. He was liberally endowed by nature, but he greatly enhanced his gifts by persistent application and close study. He was genuine in all the relations of life, without guile and without hypocrisy. With him “to be or not to be” was the question. He loved the truth, he lived for the truth, and he lived by the truth. Consequently, doubt was an unknown quantity in the molding of his thoughts and the construction of his beliefs. He had strong convictions on all questions of vital importance pertaining to the glory of God and the good of his fellowmen, and he expressed them forcibly.

He looked every inch a man. The cast of his form and features was in a measure the index of his character—majestic and strong. His very stride was indicative of the intensity of his nature and the will-power

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that dominated his career. Back of those massive brows was concealed an eye reflecting the softness of the sunshine or the fierceness of the storm. He was unusually gentle; he could be stern. The lightning flash of his eye and the vigor of his speech made the uninitiated to fear harshness, but it was only the welling up of his profoundest convictions seeking a door of utterance.

All who knew him, however wide their differences, admired his candor and trusted his sincerity. Although he would have suffered martyrdom for his own beliefs, he was not willing to make martyrs of others. He was very averse to criticising those whom he thought honestly differed from him. He often said that "in many religious matters revelation was dim, and we could only catch glimpses of the way, but it was still our duty to firmly hope and trust." One of his elders, Mr. W. J. Lisle, says of him: "Dr. Bracken was popular among our Roman Catholic people, constituting a large and influential element here. He was firm in his own convictions, and spoke out his opinions freely and forcefully, but with a large charity for those who honestly differed with him. He lived on the idea that all influence, personal and otherwise, is lost on those with whom unkind feelings are engendered." Just here we

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quote in full a letter of Rev. Dr. A. C. Graves, of the Baptist Church, Lebanon, Ky.: "Rev. Dr. Bracken had been pastor in Lebanon for about ten years, when my pastorate in that place began. Here we worked side by side for twenty years. I came to know him well, and the more I saw of him the more I found to admire and love. He was charming in companionship, just in judgment, and true as a plumb-line in his every impulse. His soul was so sincere and luminous that there could be no more doubt of him than there is of the sun. During all the years we prayed and worked together, I can not now remember that our friendship was ever obscured by a single cloud. Dr. Bracken was great in intellect, royal in will, and rich in gentleness. He was a profound thinker, a mighty preacher, and an ornament of godliness. My knowledge of him made the world more beautiful, and his death I shall continue to feel as a personal loss. Thomas A. Bracken was one of God's choicest gifts to the world. Eternity only can tell of his uplifting helpfulness to individuals and the community with which he was identified so long. Now that he has gone to be with the Lord, I find one more attraction toward the blessed home, and one more anticipation of the meeting with those we have loved on earth."

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Family Sketch.

In the background of every great and noble life there must lie adequate causes. We might as well seek to explain the varied facts of nature on the basis of accident or chance as to try to account for such a life without reference to the lineage whence it sprang. The principle of heredity that "like produces like" has so become an element in our modern thinking that we naturally expect to find a splendid life springing from a noble ancestry. At the risk, therefore, of seeming to depart from the main purpose of presenting a memorial of the late Dr. T. A. Bracken alone, we here introduce a brief history of the Bracken family. This history may not only give some interesting information, but also illustrate the fact that the gifted and godly subject of this memorial was only one of a number who deserve to be held in high esteem for their work's sake.

Henry Bracken, the father of Dr. T. A. Bracken, was of English descent. He was born near Cannonsburg, Pa., and educated at Jefferson College. He was studious and scholarly, but feeble health kept him from entering the ministry. Though he lived on his farm, he always

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took a deep interest in educational matters in general, and in the affairs of Jefferson College in particular. He united with the church under the ministry of Dr. McMillan.

He was domestic in his tastes, and made his home attractive, both within and without. He was strictly honest and careful in all his business dealings, and always maintained a high standard of Christian character.

A few extracts from a sermon preached after the death of Henry Bracken by the Rev. Dr. Alexander Brown may reveal something of his life and character: "In the death of Mr. Bracken this church and community has sustained a great loss in the removal of a pious man from the earth. We long regarded him as an eminent Christian. His was the religion of reflection and deep inward feeling. Though naturally unobtrusive, his piety was by no means inactive, for he never declined any call to duty. He was seasonable in counsel, tender in sympathy, and fervent in prayer. His clear mind, his gentle temper, his firm purpose, and his grave demeanor finely fitted him for the office of ruling elder. Next to the sense of loss felt by his family is that felt by this church in his death."

Martha Simcox Bracken, the wife of Henry Bracken and the mother of Dr. T. A. Bracken, was also of English

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extraction. She is described as a "woman of estimable character, sterling piety and great energy."

Ten children were born into this home, nine of whom lived to maturity. The foundation of their education was laid at home, and she kept in close touch with them all through their student career. Of the sons one was a Presbyterian minister, one a physician and one a lawyer. Four of his daughters married Presbyterian ministers, and two daughters never married.

The eldest daughter married Alexander Donaldson, who was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. He was educated at Jefferson College and Western Theological Seminary. He was a strong man both in body and mind, and during his whole life is said to have done the work of two or three ordinary men. His academy at Eldersridge was a power for good for many a day. The Rev. Dr. Hill said of him: "In all my knowledge of men I can think of no other man whose life was so fully rounded out in every respect." Rev. Dr. Niccolls, in an alumni address at Western Theological Seminary, spoke of Dr. Donaldson as a scholar, a minister and a teacher in the very highest terms: "His name is known to-day around the world, and thousands thank and bless God for his noble service."

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W. C. Bracken, M. D., the second son of Henry and Martha Bracken, was educated in Jefferson College and in the Medical College in Philadelphia. He was a devout man, and a leader in religious, political and educational affairs. He was an able and skillful physician, and greatly loved his profession. He was generous beyond measure, courtly in his bearing, and greatly beloved by the entire community.

The second daughter married J. L. Smith, D. D., who came of Scotch-Irish stock and a pious Presbyterian ancestry. He graduated from Jefferson College and the Western Theological Seminary. Most of his life has been spent in the West, where he has done noble service in establishing many churches, and he still lives, after forty-nine years of service, pastor at Davenport, Iowa.

The third daughter married R. F. Sample, D. D. He, too, was educated at Jefferson College and at Western Theological Seminary. He was minister two years at Bedford, Pa., and then served nineteen years in Minneapolis, Minn. He then came to Westminster Church, New York, and had a fruitful ministry there of thirteen years. For two years he has been a professor in Lincoln University, Pa. He was the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

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The fourth daughter became the wife of J. C. Thom, D. D., who, like so many already mentioned, was of the sturdy Scotch-Irish stock. His education was obtained at Jefferson College and Princeton Seminary. He was pastor first at Waynesburg, Pa., and then went to St. Louis in 1865, where in a few months he died, deeply mourned. It was said of him that "he was recognized as an earnest and faithful preacher, a close student, and a man of unusual ability."

Such is the ancestry and the environment in which Dr. T. A. Bracken, the subject of this memorial, was reared. We little wonder that, under the good providence and the rich grace of God, he was what he was by a natural lineage, and became the man and minister we knew him to have been.

Thomas A. Bracken was born near Canonsburg, Pa., August 14, 1820. But little is known of his early years, save that he was born of godly parents, who began in infancy to mold his character and to give direction to his life of fidelity to duty. In his mind and heart were sown the seeds of truth, of reverence and of obedience, a trinity of graces that will beautify and ennoble any character. Careful of his companionship and conduct as a child, they had no occasion to chide or correct his principles and practice as a boy or a man.

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He entered Jefferson College at the age of seventeen, and from the beginning manifested a conscientiousness in the discharge of his duties. Fortunately, we are not left to conjecture here, but we have the testimony of a classmate and an intimate friend, the only one living that could speak from personal knowledge. The Rev. Dr. W. M. Donaldson, of Minneapolis, Minn., says: "The youth and college life of Rev. Thomas A. Bracken ought to be written with the pen of a ready writer, a position to which I have never attained. Yet, for the love of my dear departed friend, I will give you a few items which fond memory retains after a separation of over sixty years. My first meeting with him was at college at Canonsburg, in the fall of 1837, when we were entered as Freshmen, and that acquaintance cemented and ripened through the four following years. During about eighteen months I boarded at his father's house, and so had an opportunity of knowing something of his home life. I learned to regard him as an obedient and faithful son, as a cheerful, kind and loving brother, in a well-regulated household. He was universally popular at home, in college, and in company; a famous talker, a fine conversationalist, the center of the life and humor of all present. Yet his speech was always chaste and gentlemanly. Even in the roughest company I never heard

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him utter a word that would cause regret or shame to his mother or sister had they heard him. He did not associate with the fast young men, but with the studious and orderly. His class grades were good, and as a writer and speaker he stood high, winning an honor for his literary society at the annual contest. He was a model young man as a student, and was marked by high-toned and unblemished morality."

We are prepared to accept this evidence for the portraiture of the boy that gave every promise of the grand old man. Resolute in his purpose to excel, he laid the foundation broad and deep in a well-trained mind and a well-rounded character. He moved upon a high plane, morally and intellectually, preferring to grow symmetrically and to develop all his faculties, rather than become a specialist and expand only in one direction.

Upon leaving college, after graduation, he came to Kentucky and taught school for two years, during which time he was led by the Holy Spirit into the school of Christ, where was shown a more excellent way to exercise his gifts and serve his generation. In making this surrender he kept back no part of the price, but in the spirit of the great Apostle he said: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" From that time until he

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was called home, April 22, 1902, he had no other purpose than to glorify God in the Gospel of His Son. It was a complete dedication that needed not to confer with flesh and blood. He was graduated from the Theological Seminary at New Albany, Ind., in 1845, after taking a full course of study.

Impaired health necessitated light work and frequent changes for a few years, and but little is known of the three years at Burlington, Iowa, Third Church, Louisville, and Cynthiana, Ky.

His first pastorate began at Prairie and Hopewell churches, near Lexington, Mo., having been ordained and installed by the Upper Missouri Presbytery in 1848. He continued with this charge for several years. Then followed a period of eight years as pastor of a church at Independence, Mo. A letter gives us the testimony of Mr. John McCoy, then a Deacon, now a Ruling Elder, of that church, as follows: "Mr. Bracken came as our pastor, November, 1855. The church prospered as it never had before. He brought the two factions of the church (old and new school) together. We never had a pastor who was so beloved by all classes, not only by his own people, but by members of other churches, and by those who did not go to any church."

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Rev. J. T. Leonard, in a letter, says: "Dr. Bracken gave his hearers at Independence the very essence of the old-fashioned orthodox Gospel. He had a contempt for all sensational flashiness in the pulpit. He was a theologian who believed in sound doctrine thoroughly articulated, and preached plainly to the people. Without being a controversialist, he yet could dissect an error with keen logic. As a pastor and as a man he had a strong hold on the affections of the people at large."

But during this period Dr. Bracken was called to experiences that not only tested his courage and constancy, but called into play all the wisdom and sagacity he could command. Living near the border line between Missouri and Kansas, he saw and felt the evils of that warfare which led to some of the most revolting crimes known to civilized people. Private jealousies, personal grievances and political prejudices were fanned into fanaticism for revenge and robbery by designing men and women, who acted as spies and informers on the lives of private citizens. It was literally true that "whatsoever was spoken in secret in the closet was proclaimed upon the housetop," and no man was secure either in his person or in his property. In a letter dated September 23, 1896, written to his nephew, Dr. H. M. Bracken, of Minneapolis, Dr. Bracken says: "I had many

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ups and downs and hairbreadth escapes. I aimed, during that period, to lead a loyal life, taking no active part in the war. My people were about equally divided, North and South, in sentiment, and the church remained united, but was eventually closed by military authority, because I would not consent to the erection of the United States flag over my pulpit. I preached no politics, and never dictated to my Master what He should do, but prayed that under His sovereign control right might prevail and peace be restored. This did not satisfy those in authority, so arrests, robbery and every species of outrage, such as was the custom in that locality, followed. The experiences of those few years at the present time appear like a strange dream. I have never lacked for bread, I have never lacked for friends, I have never had trouble with any church over which I have been pastor."

Dr. Chaney, author of "William the Baptist," writes of these times: "During the Civil War my home was in Dover, Lafayette County, Missouri. On several occasions Brother Bracken felt that for safety it was necessary to leave home. His place of refuge was my home in Dover. I do not remember the number of such visits he made to my house. He would remain for a few days or for a week, until he received information that the cause of

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danger was removed. Once he made a narrow escape with his life. A band of marauders from Kansas made their appearance in Independence, determined to capture Dr. Bracken because his Southern sympathies had been reported to them. They were Jemmison's men, and arrest by them meant killing. He was concealed and marvelously protected by the friendship and sagacity of an Irish woman, who was also a Catholic." This story is reproduced from notes of a conversation had between Dr. Bracken and his nephew: "In the rear of his home in Independence was a garden, and at the extreme end of this garden a rail fence. This had been torn down and replaced by a board fence. An Irishman asked for the rails, saying he would pay for them in work. The minister told him that he did not need anyone to work for him, and that if he gave him the rails he would have to buy firewood to take their place; but the Irishman persisted, saying, 'Oim shure it's hard when a man can not get rails for his cow pen and he wants to worruk for them.' 'Very well, Paddie,' answered Mr. Bracken, 'take the rails, and if ever I want any work done you can come around,' never intending, however, that he should work for the rails. Not long after this the town was surrounded by Kansas raiders. Mr. Bracken, who was away from the house at the time, hurried

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back, hoping to save a horse that he prized; a horse that he had kept hidden in the brush at night, but at home during the daytime. He failed to reach his home in time, for the raiders were already in the town. Not far away was a district inhabited by Irish working people. Some of the houses were in a depression, concealed to some extent from view of the general passers by. Mr. Bracken made his way cautiously to one of these houses and asked the woman to give him protection. 'An' who are you?' asked the woman. The reply was, 'My name is Bracken.' To this she answered, 'And you are the preacher, Bracken, the mon who gave me old mon the rails to build his cow pen?' To which he replied, 'Yes.' Thereupon she said, 'An' a mighty gude mon you are, too.' This was the first he knew of the locality to which his rails had been taken. The woman said, 'An' shure I will hide you. Go right into that room. (It was a two-roomed cabin.) You will be safe. I will pick up chips and do the talking to the men if they come.' The men came and told the woman she was concealing a man whom they wanted. She denied this, saying, 'An' shure I have a mon of me own, an' what would I be wantin' with another?' The men left, but were not satisfied with her statement, and they returned in their search several times and threatened

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to burn her house. Mr. Bracken heard this from where he was concealed, and determined that if they did so, and he escaped with his life, the woman should never be loser for her generous act. But she knew nothing of this resolution on the part of the preacher, and, though thoroughly frightened, continued to gather chips and count her beads, and she met the desperadoes unflinchingly. All this time Mr. Bracken was sitting in the little room in which corn was stored for the winter, with only a muslin curtain covering the window between himself and those who were seeking his life, while the woman, in the face of threatened ruin, stood up his defender. Once when they insisted that she was hiding the man, she replied, 'Why, see for yourselves; the door is open.' This frankness seemed to satisfy the men, and they went away without searching the house. It may be noted that this poor couple were secure from want for the rest of their lives, and were always visited, when in Independence, by the man whose life the woman had saved. On one occasion, when speaking to Mr. Bracken of the part she had played in this tragedy, the woman said, 'Oi never counted me beads so fast in me loife as I did when I was gathering me chips that day. Oi tould the praste about it afterwards at confession, and he said, 'Ye did

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just right, for he is a gentleman if he is a heretic, and who knows but it may be the manes of savin' his sowl?'"

Mr. Bracken was a law-abiding citizen, but he was not in sympathy with the way the law was then enforced in that part of Missouri. He was in sympathy with his friends and parishioners who were being plundered and ruined by a band of robbers who called themselves "soldiers." His church having been closed by military authority, Dr. Bracken thought it best to move his family away from such dangers and indignities as threatened them continually; consequently he brought them to Kentucky, expecting in time to return to his home and church in Missouri, but having so fearlessly and faithfully endured hardness as a good soldier, the Lord had another place for him to occupy in His vineyard. He preached for one year at Newstead Church, in Muhlenburg Presbytery, where he left a record for wisdom, piety and personal power that is still spoken of. One of his hearers there was so infatuated with him and so impressed by his preaching that in a private controversy on some doctrine of the Bible his opponent thought to end the discussion by quoting from the Apostle Paul, whereupon this devotee of Dr. Bracken said: "I don't care what the Apostle Paul says; tell me what Dr. Bracken says."

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He then served the church at Nicholasville, Ky., for two years, where he left an abiding impress for good, and his memory and name are still fragrant in many hearts and homes in that church.

But it was just like our blessed Master to reserve the best things for the last. To one who had been rocked upon so many rough seas and tested in so many trying places, it was a delightful experience to find a place where he could spend his days in joyful service for his Master. In the year 1867 he was called to the Second Church, Lebanon, where he had a most fruitful ministry of nearly thirty years. Here he did a work that will be spoken of as a memorial of him. In the first place, it is but right to say to the praise of that church that they were a most godly and grateful people, who loved their pastor and who were intensely loyal to him, valuing his services as a pastor and appreciating his efforts to instruct and guide them. It was largely due to the ready response and hearty co-operation of his people in all his attempts to build up the cause of Christ that he was enabled to bear up so long and so bravely in his work. Under his wise and consecrated leadership the church made increase in numbers, and grew in favor with man and with God. His church was noted for its harmony and perfect unity of action.

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Some of the other churches thought he exercised too much authority over his people, and they called him "Pope Bracken," but the people met this most ungracious charge by saying that "their's was the cheerful obedience of a loving, loyal people to a kingly man."

Dr. Bracken was peculiarly fond of children, and so kept in close touch with the hearts and homes of his people, and was prepared to lead them as a shepherd. If any criticism could be admissible of a ministry so full of good results, it would be that he did too much of the work himself, instead of developing and using the talents about him. He was the Superintendent of his Sabbath-School almost his entire pastorate, although he had men of ability and consecration. If it be out of harmony with our modern ideas that the pastor have no care or concern about the school in order that the mind may be engaged about the sermon, we can only reply, "That was Dr. Bracken's way," and it did not seem to diminish his pleasure and power in preaching the Gospel. But it would not be wise, perhaps, for all ministers to try to follow him in this peculiarity, any more than in some other things, lest they should be found like David, trying to wear Saul's armor.

Owing to the frail health, first of his wife, then of himself, he insisted upon retiring from the care of his

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church. This the congregation steadfastly resisted, but so insistent was he that they called in his family physician to give an opinion. He replied that Dr. Bracken had an idea that he could not do the work as he wished to see it done, but it would do his people more good to have him come and look at them than for any other man to preach to them.

One of the elders of his church, Mr. John Edmonds, in speaking of Dr. Bracken's relations to the session, says: "He was kind and gentle in manner, strong and firm in his convictions of right and duty; his influence was always for good. It was a pleasure and a privilege to have been associated with him during his ministry here. On reviewing the many trials and triumphs of his long pastorate, it is plain that steadfastness of duty, at whatever personal cost, formed the strong characteristic of the man. The life he lived exemplified the Gospel he preached."

Testimonial of Miss Mary Briggs McElroy:

"In recalling a life spent among us and for us as was that of Rev. Dr. T. A. Bracken, at Lebanon, Ky., one can but rise up to do loving honor to this faithful servant of God, at the same time realizing fully the utter inability of our words to tell what he was and what he was to us. Having known him from the time of his coming

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to us till the day in which he was taken up, I see in him a character in which strength and tenderness are combined in a remarkable degree, and this combination went far toward making him the man of might he was. The right ever found in him a champion. When once in our church, the revered and lamented Dr. Wither-
spoon spoke of him as 'Mr. Greatheart'; the statement was heartily endorsed by all of us. It was his fine judgment and unusually clear insight into men and things, added to the knowing him our friend, that made him the guide and adviser he was; in our times of extremity he never once failed us, for he was wise in counsel and strong in working. Thoroughness marked all that he did, and none more than he was a despiser of sham and subterfuge. That he was a man of purpose and sterling worth was the universal acclaim. Old and young, parents and children all came in for a share of his fatherly care and admonition during the score and a half years that he shepherded us; he truly carried us on his heart; our sorrows and joys alike were his, and his ours. To those of us who knew much of sickness and sorrow, how never-failing his tender helpfulness. None knew better than he *how* to visit the sick and sorrow-stricken, when he always had a glad welcome and ever left a blessing behind."

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Dr. Bracken a Presbyter.

It is not usual for a man to excel in more than one department of church work, but it was pre-eminently true of Dr. Bracken that he shone with peculiar brilliancy in the courts and councils of the church, and was even more useful and influential as a presbyter than as a pastor. He had great foresight, prudence and wisdom, which fitted him for deliberation. He was commanding in appearance, convincing in argument and courageous in heart, so that he was qualified to be a leader; and perhaps no man in the Synod has done more to shape its policy in the last quarter of a century than he. He was level-headed, liberal-handed and loyal-hearted, and no one ever questioned his motives; so that for him to espouse a cause meant strength of argument and the influence of his name and character. Men knew that he was posted in all the affairs of the Church, for he was always in his place at the appointed time, and was thoroughly attentive to all the business before the court. There has not been an enterprise of importance before the Synod that did not enlist his sympathy and support. He was an ardent advocate and a liberal contributor to the Synod's evangelical work.

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But if there is any one cause that lay nearer his heart than any other, because of its necessity to the extension and preservation of the Synod's influence, it was the Central University. If there were no other encomium passed upon his work in Kentucky he deserves to be held in the highest esteem as a friend and patron of higher education. Eliminate the effects of Dr. Bracken's force, fervency and fidelity, and their direct and indirect inspiration to this cause for the last twenty years, and you would have had no University, and the Synod would have suffered an irreparable loss.

In the inception of our separate educational work Dr. Bracken was one of the first to speak for it, and to give to it, and to the day of its consolidation with Centre College he was the firmest friend the institution ever had. His unwavering loyalty, his invincible determination, his unremitting constancy, fitted him to be its surest supporter and safest counselor. He was always a member of its Board of Curators, and gave freely of his time, money and best thought for its success. In its days of prosperity he rejoiced, and in the days of its adversity he defended its good name and fostered its existence. The older members of the Synod will not soon forget his earnest appeals for the co-operation of all the churches in its support, his fervent prayers for

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its usefulness. His heart was in it because he thought it was established for the glory of God and the good of young men.

No one could ever charge Dr. Bracken with a lack of fidelity to the best interests of Central University or the Southern Church. Their perpetuity and prosperity had become so inwrought into the very fibre of his being that he loved them with a tenderness and a devotion that was almost passionate.

But he was too far-seeing to be hampered by prejudice, and too wise not to discern the signs of the times; consequently, when the question of consolidation was suggested, and pronounced feasible by competent lawyers, he was its warmest supporter. His proverbial loyalty to his own Church and Institution, his characteristic honesty of purpose and sincerity of life, coupled with his age and retirement from active service, made it possible for him to advocate the consolidation without any possibility of being misjudged. No position of power or emolument held out by the new University could be charged against him as a reward; consequently his influence did more to decide that question favorably than perhaps that of any other one man. He lived to see the consummation of the plan and the work going forward harmoniously and successfully, and he felt the

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cause of education was in safe hands, and he gave himself over to the enjoyment of a serene old age. Like the great law-giver and leader of Israel, with a sublime consciousness of duty done, of a trust faithfully administered, of a life full of honors, with a heart at rest in the love of God, and full of hope, looking for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life, he took a survey of all the land yet to be possessed by the Church of his love, and then committed its future to the Joshuas whom the Lord had raised up. It presents a picture worthy of an artist's pen to see this old soldier of the Church and of the Lord Jesus, clad in the whole armor of God, like a sentinel upon some distant outpost, standing alone of a great company who enlisted with him, watching and waiting for his last discharge. Faithful unto death, he caught the Master's eye and heard him say, "Come up higher." And so he passed out to be forever with his Lord.

Dr. Bracken would have been great in any calling. As a soldier he would have ranked with Havelock or Stonewall Jackson. As a jurist he would have classed with Boyle, Owsley, Mills or Robertson. But he chose not great things for himself. In the spirit of self-denial and sweet simplicity he coveted the honor of preaching the Gospel of the Son of God. How he fulfilled that

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ministry we will let another tell. Dr. R. P. Farris, of St. Louis, Mo., himself a veteran, but still in the harness, says: "Dr. Bracken was, first of all, an humble, devout Christian, who, like Paul, 'knew whom he had believed.' To him the Scriptures—the whole of them—were the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and conduct. He was an able minister of the Gospel, thoroughly grounded in systematic truth, and expert in teaching it. He carried himself always as an ambassador for Christ, mindful of the high honor and the dread responsibility of dealing with lost men, as though God did beseech them by him; he declared the whole counsel of God faithfully, fearlessly, yet so as to commend both it and himself. He lived as he preached, 'pointed to heaven and led the way,' so that all men had confidence in him in all things. A kindly man, not self-assertive, but for Christ and His truth and His kingdom, it was as true of Dr. Bracken as of John Knox, 'he never feared the face of man.'"

Dr. Bracken in the Home.

Dr. Bracken was married first to Miss Ann Warren, of Lincoln County, Kentucky, July 9, 1845. To this union were born two children: Julia Mary, born April 9, 1847; died March 9, 1873. Margaret, born May 12,

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1848; died May 13, 1848. He was married the second time to Mrs. Myra Crooks, near Campbellsville, Ky., January 13, 1893.

The sacredness of the home would forbid our drawing aside the veil to gaze upon the joys and sorrows that alternately came into the life of this man of God if it were not for the lessons we may learn. Too many of our strong men are weak at home. They are bigger, brighter and better everywhere else than at home. In the home a man shows for what he is. The freedom and familiarity of social intercourse, with its cares and its caresses, furnish the best criterion of the man. A man who is more civil and courtly in his manners, more cordial and charitable in his behavior toward others than to his wife, is radically deficient.

Of Dr. Bracken it might be truly said, "There was no place like home." There he appeared at his best. The unbending of the strong man to a thorough relaxation of body and brain was not to indulge self or to impose an additional burden upon the busy housewife, but to lighten the cares and brighten the life of the one he loved best. He had a stalwart form, a massive brain and a majestic look, such as we associate with oaks, cliffs and mountains, but in the home these all gave place to that other and more befitting grace, gentleness.

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He loved the things in nature and in life that appealed to the tender side of his being. His home was embowered in roses, covered with vines and perfumed with delightful odors. He delighted in the culture of roses and grapes, and from communion with these he drank into his soul all that was fragrant and beautiful, and all who were privileged to enjoy the hospitality of his home have felt the uplift of its refined influence. A great shadow fell upon its threshold when the light of that life went out, but the benediction of his chastened and consecrated example will remain a precious memory forever. May the Lord of the home dwell there through the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit, and make up to them by His sustaining grace more than they have lost of earthly comfort and sympathy.

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Funeral Services

With chastened hearts and bowed heads devout men and women gathered in the sacred place, where he had so long and so lovingly preached the Gospel, to weep and to worship. It was a very sweet and solemn service, where all classes and all creeds forgot their distinctions and differences in order to show respect to the memory and virtues of "the man of God" who had been their friend, their counselor, their comforter. "They sorrowed most of all that they would see his face no more." But down in every heart there was a sustaining conviction that a good man had fallen asleep, and there was a wave of holy calm came over that vast congregation as the minister read the reassuring words: "But we would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them that are asleep that ye sorrow not even as others which have no hope. . . . For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him."

Addresses were made by Rev. Dr. A. S. Moffett, the pastor of the church so long served by Dr. Bracken, and with whom there existed the most cordial and sympathetic relations; Rev. Dr. Miles Saunders, who had lived as a neighbor and brother beloved in the Gospel for thirty years, and by Rev. Dr. L. H. Blanton, whose friendship and long intimacy had knit their hearts into a love like unto Jonathan's and David's.

To each of these three the service was peculiarly touching and tender, and the pouring out of their hearts in expressions of appreciation for a life so full of noble deeds and so fragrant with sweet and precious memories made a beautiful tribute to the name and character

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of one who deserved it all—spoken out of the fullness of their own grief under the inspiration of a great occasion, it would be impossible for them to fully reproduce their language or their thoughts.

DR. MILES SAUNDERS' REMARKS

We are here not to praise our friend but to bury him. Yet I crave your indulgence while I lay a modest garland on his casket—the promptings of a loving and warm personal friendship and fraternal esteem. Dr. T. A. Bracken was my nearest pastoral neighbor; he was with me and I with him in those supremest hours of family history, and in the days of our bereavements and sorrows—for a period longer than the average lifetime of man.

I knew him intimately in all the phases of life. He knew the plan of salvation thoroughly, and could state it with a clearness and force that is seldom equalled. In more than forty years of ministerial life, I have known few who were his equals and none who was his superior in force of intellect, in wisdom of counsel, and in superb moral courage, and yet I always found in this great, strong, courageous man the simple faith, the unshaken trust, and the tenderness of a child.

Manliness and Christlikeness, strength and tenderness, force of personal will and equity in his judgments of others found a notable combination in him.

You will record the fact that when the other apostles had all passed over the Jordan of death into the heavenly Canaan beyond, that John, the youngest and most loving of them all, was a prisoner for the faith on the Island of Patmos, and that the Divine Master appeared to him in that wonderful apocalyptic vision, and that after unrolling chapter after chapter of the church's history, of her trials and triumphs down the coming centuries, as if to emphasize a great truth about to be communicated, he said to John, "*Write.*" Yes, write, do not commit

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it to the uncertain tongue of tradition, but write it on the page of inspiration and send it down to ages. What is it thus to be written? Write: "Blessed are the dead, etc." They rest from their labors; yes, we rest in this great truth to-day.

Our brother now rests from the labors of a long and arduous life, a complete rest, an uninterrupted rest, a satisfactory rest, an eternal rest that knows no end nor fear of change. "Their works do follow them." His works will follow. The force of such a life can not be lost. The gospel our brother preached, the gospel he lived—for his life was an epistle known and read of men—the gospel of his teaching and the gospel of his life, lodged in the minds and graven on the hearts, especially of the young, lives after him and will flow on down the stream of coming years, widening in its influence. He rests from his labors, and his works do follow him.

He was my neighbor and my friend and I loved him, and now that he is dead I mourn for him, and as he was an earnest, faithful Christian I cherish an unshaken belief that while we bury away his earthly remains his spirit stands in the great throng of the redeemed in light.

There are no reproaches to be buried in the grave of Thomas A. Bracken. Our memories of him are all pleasant, and may be lovingly and profitably cherished.

REV. DR. L. H. BLANTON'S REMARKS

I can not expect to add anything to the words so fitly and eloquently spoken by Dr. Moffett, the pastor, and Dr. Saunders, the ministerial neighbor of Dr. Bracken. Indeed, nothing that any of us can say will add to the impressiveness of this occasion. For my own part I should prefer to leave this platform and sit down with this sorrowing people and weep with them.

I have known Dr. Bracken for thirty-four years. He was one of the first ministers to welcome me back to the Synod on my return to

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Kentucky, 1868, and from the day I first met him to the close of his earthly career he was my trusted, intimate and confidential friend. I am not able to express to you to-day all that he was to me during this long period, and especially during the twenty-one years of my connection with the Central University at Richmond. Without his generous and unfaltering support, his wise counsels and tender sympathy, I do not see how, in the face of so many obstacles, the work could have been carried forward. He was a member of the Board of Curators from the organization of the University to the consolidation with Centre College one year ago. He seldom failed to attend the meetings of the Board, and whenever in Richmond he was a guest in our home, and was welcomed and loved by every member of the family.

When notified that I was expected to say something on this occasion the question arose at once in my mind, what was it that made Dr. Bracken what he was—one of the greatest and best men I have ever known?

It has been my fortune to meet and know many of the distinguished men of our country in all the professions, but on getting close to them I have, with few exceptions, discovered foibles and failings which detracted somewhat from their greatness. With Dr. Bracken my experience was just the reverse. The closer I got to him and the better I knew him the greater he always seemed to be. Why was this? Many other public men have lived as long and have rendered as long and more varied public service, have attracted a larger share of public attention and were in some respects more gifted; but I venture the assertion that the church of Kentucky has never been blessed with a nobler minister, or the Commonwealth with a more honorable, courageous and useful citizen. May we not well pause, then, in paying this last tribute to his memory, and ask ourselves what were the elements of character which stamped him as a truly great and good man? What was it about him which made such a strong and lasting impression on all who knew him, and why are his name and memory so linked

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to-day in the hearts not only of this devoted people but of the Presbyterian people of Kentucky?

In the first place Dr. Bracken was a man of splendid physical development and wonderful bodily vigor. For over fourscore years he walked about among men, and was majestic to the last. For over fifty years he stood up as a preacher, Sabbath after Sabbath, apparently fresh and wonderfully ready. Now, the body is a part of the man. It has been redeemed by the blood of Christ; is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and will be raised up at last in glory. This physical organism, with which our brother was so richly endowed, is enshrined in the memory and hearts of all who knew him. Every hair of his venerable head is sacred to us all.

It pleased God to give Dr. Bracken an intellect of unusual quickness and power, which had been carefully trained in the best schools, so that notwithstanding his intense earnestness his judgment was almost unerring. I have never known any other man to make so few mistakes. I was often surprised at the quickness and correctness with which he settled the most difficult questions of casuistry.

But the most distinguishing characteristic of the man was his unswerving devotion to principle and uncompromising advocacy of the right because it was right. Expediency did not enter into his philosophy. The expedient thing with him always was the right thing, and he could not understand how any man could have any other standard of action. Men might differ from him and differ widely, but they could not doubt his sincerity or question his integrity. This, I take it, was the groundwork, the solid granite of his character, and it shone out on all occasions; in the pulpit declaring the whole counsel of God, in ecclesiastical courts discussing questions of church polity, in his relations to his brethren of the ministry and in meeting the many intricate and delicate questions which arose in the affairs of the local congregation; in all these fields of activity and usefulness the one thing with him was to do right, and so conspicuous was this attribute of his

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character I doubt whether there is a man living to-day who ever questioned his honor or his unflinching courage. For he was just as fearless in the advocacy of his principles as he was honest in forming them. Sterling integrity and unbending rectitude were the pillars on which the whole moral fabric of his character rested, and upon these were hung, as pictures, all the Christian virtues which adorned his beautiful life. We are apt to think of such a man as hard and stern, as cold and without kindness, and it is true that men of strong convictions are sometimes hard and cold, but there was nothing of this in the character of this noble man, and there was nothing of it in his relations to his people; on the contrary there was a beautiful blending of strength and gentleness, courage and courtesy. His whole life was filled with kindness and philanthropy. In all his intercourse with his own people, private and social, he was an humble, amiable, charitable and sympathetic pastor. He went everywhere on missions of mercy, and so endeared himself to every member of his flock.

But one other thing is needed to complete the picture of Dr. Bracken as I knew him. He was a truly godly man, a noble preacher, and thoroughly consecrated to his Master's service. He was reared in a Christian home, was educated in a Christian college, and it pleased God to call him into his kingdom at an early age, and his whole subsequent Christian life bore the marks of a genuine conversion. The secret of his success and usefulness as a minister is discovered in the type of his Christian character. He was an earnest, active, joyous Christian; he walked in the light and enjoyed a perpetual sense of his Saviour's presence in the sweet assurance of his own personal salvation. But there was no trace of fanaticism or sentimentality in his religious life; on the contrary modesty and humility shone out on all occasions. You who sat under his ministry for twenty-five years knew what to expect as you came to the house of God. Other men might preach other things if they would, science, philosophy, literature, social ethics, politics, but this pulpit was consecrated to Christ and Him crucified.

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In an age of sensationalism this man, with a faithfulness rarely ever excelled, stood by the old Gospel. He knew the Gospel, he loved the Gospel, he lived the Gospel and so was able to preach the Gospel to the very end as very few men of his age have been able to do—so clearly, so freely, so tenderly, so lovingly. The tones of his earnest, sympathetic voice will long live in the memory of this devoted people.

The death of such a man even at his advanced age comes as a great shock to the living. We feel that a great light has gone out from the Church and Commonwealth. Our love is so absorbing, the shock of parting is so tremendous, the loss of daily companionship and the loving ministrations that make life worth the living is so keen that we can not realize that death is but a transition to better and happier scenes. But this is all that death is to the Christian. On Monday morning in the quiet home close by ere the sun arose out of the east, the Sun of Righteousness descended with healings in His wings, and the pure and lofty spirit of our brother went up and entered into the presence of his Saviour. Is not this a glorious compensation? What we lose others gain. Just as the setting sun, while it darkens one part of our globe, goes to gladden another. If he has left us, it is to make an accession to heaven. If he has ceased to preach Christ here—no, no, his preaching will still be heard, for "he being dead yet speaketh"; but if his voice can no longer be heard here pleading for Christ it is heard yonder still crying "unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood . . . to Him be glory and dominion forever and forever." For we are told that "His redeemed serve him day and night in His temple."

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Prayers were offered by Rev. W. Y. Davis, of Louisville, and by Rev. Dr. Graves, of the Baptist Church.

Then we slowly followed the body to its last resting place in the cemetery at Lebanon, to sleep with its kindred dust until the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall come forth, and after an appropriate prayer by Rev. Dr. W. C. Roberts, of Danville, we turned our feet toward the busy world again to fill up the measure of our task and to await the summons of our Master.

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*Expressions of Respect
and Sympathy*

SESSION OF THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, LEBANON, KY.

The undersigned, appointed a committee of the Session of the Second Presbyterian Church, in Lebanon, Ky., to report to said Session resolutions on the death of our ex-pastor, Rev. T. A. Bracken, who died at 12:15 a. m., Tuesday, April 22, 1902, respectfully report the following:

Resolved, First, That in the death of Rev. T. A. Bracken, who was the beloved pastor of our church for more than thirty years, we recognize that God has taken from us and this church one endeared to us all, not only by his unwearied fidelity to his duties as pastor, but who, by his life, taught us the inestimable value of the religion he professed and so faithfully practiced.

Second, We bear our testimony that as a citizen among all classes and conditions of our people, our beloved friend in the many years he was with us lived day by day as an example of what Christianity ought to and would make of one and every one who would put its vital principles into every-day living. His life is to us his highest eulogy.

Third, While in his death we mourn our loss, we are left the consolations that after a long life of usefulness, honored and loved by all, his sun went down in an unclouded sky, that with his faith founded on the "Rock of Ages," he surrendered the burden of life, and his mortality put on immortality, and death was swallowed up in victory.

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Fourth, We hereby tender to those near to him by earthly ties our profound sympathy, and especially to her nearer to him than all others, and pray that the God of all consolation will comfort and sustain her as she now makes her pilgrimage bereft of her husband's companionship, love and support.

W. J. LISLE,

C. B. HARRISON,

J. J. WOOD,

Committee.

TRANSYLVANIA PRESBYTERY IN SESSION AT DANVILLE, KY., APRIL 23, 1902

DANVILLE, KY., April 23, 1902.

MRS. T. A. BRACKEN:

Dear Madam: The announcement of your husband's death just as Transylvania Presbytery was convening, was a great shock to us all, for we all loved and respected him. Dr. T. A. Bracken came into the Presbytery in troublous times, and immediately all eyes turned to him as to an "Israelite indeed in whom was no guile." Every successive meeting of the church courts has increased our respect for his practical, common sense, and heightened our admiration for his superb moral courage. No man drew to himself more of the love and respect of Transylvania than did he. We saw in the great, strong, manly man the faith, the trust, the tenderness of a child. We loved him for his manliness; we loved him for his Christlikeness.

We have great reason for thankfulness that God spared him to us for so long, and now that the infinite Father has called him up higher, he has come to his grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in, in his season (Job 5:26). And now, Mrs. Bracken, in this day of your bereavement, the members of Presbytery beg to assure

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you that they sorrow with you in the separation; that they rejoice with you in the hopes that take hold of eternity, and that they will ever pray that God's comforting and saving grace may abound toward you.

J. V. LOGAN.

MILES SAUNDERS.

The Presbytery of Transylvania adopted the foregoing report by a unanimous vote, after which, on motion of Rev. E. C. Lawson, the Presbytery was led in prayer by Dr. Saunders asking God's comforting and sustaining grace in behalf of the widow of our beloved and venerable brother.

ATTEST:

E. M. GREEN, *Stated Clerk*.

April 23, 1902.

MINUTE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

The Board desires to put on record the sense of great loss it has sustained in the death of the Rev. T. A. Bracken, D. D., of Lebanon, Ky., who departed this life, April 22, 1902.

Dr. Bracken, during his long and useful life, had always taken the deepest interest in Christian education. This was shown by his faithful service on the Board of Curators of the old Central University. It was further exhibited by his great interest in all the negotiations which resulted in the consolidation of the educational work of the Presbyterians in Kentucky, and by his service on the Board of Trustees of the consolidated institution.

The Board feels deeply the loss of such a man from its counsels, and regrets very greatly that he should not have been spared to see more fully the good results of consolidation.

The Board expresses its deep sympathy with the Church and family that have been bereaved. At the same time, the Board ex-

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presses its gratitude to God that such a useful man was so long spared to render such a lasting service to the Church of which he was a member.

TRIBUTE OF HON. W. C. P. BRECKINRIDGE IN MORNING HERALD, LEXINGTON, KY.

During the two years of my father's presidency of Jefferson College at Cannonsburg, Penn., there was no member of the Presbyterian Church, patron of the college or citizen of that section of Pennsylvania who was a warmer or more valuable friend of Jefferson College and of its president than Henry Bracken, Esq.—the father of Dr. Bracken, a Christian gentleman of high standing and of much influence. My father left there in 1847, when I was a lad of ten. After the war between the States I became acquainted with the Rev. Thomas A. Bracken, who had moved from Missouri to Kentucky either during the war or during its last year, who was then at Nicholasville, and who was soon afterward called to Lebanon. When the movement to found and establish Central University was up he was an attendant at most of the meetings held at Lexington, and at which meetings I was generally the presiding officer, and on several occasions he did me the favor of being my guest. From that time to his death I had opportunities of knowing him well.

We often hear the expression, "A Soldier of Christ," and this in every possible sense describes Dr. Bracken. He was a soldierly-looking man; above medium height, with an open, bright expression; one who, in any assembly, would attract attention and be a leader, and his name was in harmony with his personal appearance.

No braver man ever lived. No more resolute man ever entered into a contest; his courage and his veracity was absolute. There is always a connection between veracity and courage; we will not say

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that every brave man is veracious, but we believe that every veracious man is brave, and high courage and absolute veracity are always accompanied with sincerity, and he possessed in a large degree these three qualities: Courage, veracity and sincerity. It is not strange, therefore, that Dr. Bracken was one of the tenderest and most sympathetic of men. Under that resolute exterior and in that courageous heart there was an overflowing tenderness that showed itself on all occasions.

That which differentiates the Christian religion from all other religions is that it is based upon the personal love for a Person. It is not a creed, or a doctrine, or a system of dogmas, but it is the personal love of each individual for the personal Christ Jesus; and therefore those who have been true soldiers of Christ, who have been martyrs to their love, during the last nineteen centuries, have had among them men of the type of Dr. Bracken.

I do not undertake to speak of him as a preacher; I was never thrown in contact with him or with his congregation, so I know little of him as a pastor; I speak of him as a Christian man. He was a Curator of Central University from its founding to its consolidation; he was eminently a consistent man in his convictions. From my first acquaintance with him my confidence in and my admiration for him constantly increased. His frankness, his sincerity and his courage always impressed me anew. In all assemblies, under all circumstances and upon all occasions, no matter what subject was under consideration, or what topic was up for discussion, or what matter was being considered, he could be depended upon with absolute certainty to do and say the manly and frank thing. He was loyal to his friendships and to his friends without being disloyal to his convictions or to the right. He defended the absent who were being persecuted, helped the weak, lifted up the fallen and denounced the false, and during his whole life his influence was always for the uplifting of those with whom he came in contact. Such a man was wise in counsel as well as

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manly in action. To him the distressed could go without hesitation, the needy with certainty of relief. Before him falsehood skulked, and in his presence malignity shrunk away.

It is impossible to estimate the power of such a character, or the influence of such a life. These are the potent influences which have made civilization. The community is to be envied in which such a man passed his life, and it is a calamity when such a life is ended.

TRIBUTE OF REV. I. S. McELROY, D. D. IN THE SOUTHERN EVANGELIST

Just before the opening of the gates of a new day at Lebanon, Ky., April 22, 1902, the Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Bracken passed through the Gates Eternal into the rest and the rewards of the faithful.

The stress of almost eighty-two years of intense living had left his heart too weak to resist a cold contracted on the Friday preceding, and after waiting quietly for full three days, he passed peacefully into his Father's presence.

After services, suited to the occasion, and conducted by his pastor and successor, Dr. A. S. Moffett, assisted by Doctors Saunders and Blanton, and with every fitting expression of esteem and tenderest affection, the body of this distinguished citizen and venerable divine and faithful servant of the Lord was, in the afternoon of April 25th, laid to rest in the beautiful lot where has been sleeping through the years the sacred dust of Mary, his only child, and of Ann Warren, his devoted and beloved wife.

He was born in Washington County, Pa., August 14, 1820, and after graduating from Jefferson College, he came to Kentucky and taught school near Troy in Jessamine County.

He was graduated from the Theological Seminary at New Albany, Ind., in 1845; was supply for the Third Church, Louisville, in 1856,

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and for the church at Cynthiana in 1847; was pastor of the Prairie and Hopewell churches, near Independence, Mo., in 1848-'55, and of the Independence Church, 1855-'63; was supply for the church at Nicholasville, Ky., 1864-'66; was pastor of the Second Church, Lebanon, Ky., from January 1, 1867, to July, 1896, and from that last date to the day of his departure, he was the valuable assistant in many ways to an appreciative successor.

The first two-thirds of the fifty-two years of Dr. Bracken's ministerial life was a period of peculiarly troublous times in the church—times that tried the characters of men, as ships are tried by storms at sea—and through those times he passed to be admired and esteemed at the last, even by those whom he had opposed.

A man of superb courage and profound convictions and outspoken frankness, richly endowed with those rare elements of which great leaders are made, he was, by the constitution of his nature and the choice of his brethren, a prominent and influential counselor and leader in all the great movements of his church, and notwithstanding the frictions this involved, when he lay in state, Priest and Presbyter, preacher and people, Calvinist and skeptic, men of all classes and conditions and conflicting opinions, came with one accord to honor his memory.

These things can only be written of a few men, who are both good and great, and whose characters are worthy of study.

The more Dr. Bracken's character is studied the more it will impress the student, for he was one of those rarest of men of whom it is not true that distance lends enchantment to the view.

The hidings of his power lay in a large measure in his fidelity and far-sightedness, and uniform faith and fair-mindedness, and a harmonious blending of strength and tenderness.

As a preacher of the Gospel and a Presbyter of influence for fifty-two years, as the successful and greatly beloved pastor of the Second Presbyterian church of Lebanon for above thirty years, as one of the

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most valuable curators of Central University, from its inception to its consolidation, as one of the staunchest friends of the Synod's evangelistic work, from its beginning to the day of his departure; as a friend whose friendship was ever the same under all circumstances, and never disappointed the expectations of those who trusted in him, Dr. Bracken has shown himself the possessor, in no small measure, of many of the most important elements of true greatness.

He was the wisest counselor, the truest friend, the strongest, tenderest man I ever knew, and those who knew him best would lay the stress on his tenderness.

This side of his many-sided character will be most sacredly cherished by his faithful and loving wife, Mrs. Myra Crooks Bracken, and by his devoted sister and a large circle of friends who feel to-day something akin to the sorrow of those who are bereft of a wise and affectionate father.

We have had other great men who had as few faults, perhaps, as he had, and some who were greater scholars, and some who were greater orators, and some who were greater writers than he was; but taking the large success he achieved as a leader in the face of trying difficulties, the amount of good he accomplished through a long and ever fruitful life, the wisdom of his counsels, and the strength of his will, and the extent and intensity of his influence, and the power of his personality, taking him all in all, his friends can easily claim that one of the half-dozen greatest men who have lived and labored in the church in Kentucky is the Rev. Thomas A. Bracken, D. D.

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